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Note from the Editor

Alice E. Smith

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Note from the Editor

Alice E. Smith^a

^aDepartment of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849

Contact: smithae@auburn.edu,  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8808-0663> (AES)

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The *INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC)* has 10 technical areas, and although there is occasional overlap between areas, our procedure of authors selecting the best area for their paper works remarkably smoothly. Every year, each area reviews its statement of scope and mission (and its title) and revises as necessary given the dynamics of our field.

In this issue, I would like to highlight **Network Optimization: Algorithms & Applications**, which is led by David (Dave) L. Alderson of the Operations Research Department of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. The Network Optimization Area focuses on networks across the social, physical, and engineering sciences. These include social, telecommunications, and transportation networks. Of primary interest are papers exploring innovative applications of optimization. Although novel applications are of potential interest, papers in this area generally make a significant methodological contribution and are accompanied by computational work supporting the contributions.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Algorithms for optimal design and use of networks
- Network security, survivability, robustness, risk, and resilience
- Game-theoretic representations and analysis
- Network applications in emerging technological areas
- Case studies involving real, large-scale network problems including published data

According to Dave, “Over the last 25 years, the study of networks has grown dramatically, both in scale and

scope. This has followed the increasing importance that networks—physical, social, technological, and environmental—play in shaping our lives and our planet. While there has been a proliferation of journals dedicated to domain-specific treatment of network phenomena across the social, physical, and engineering sciences, the Network Optimization: Algorithms & Applications area of *INFORMS Journal on Computing* continues to provide a venue for our research community to address challenging network problems that highlight contributions both in methodology and across a broad range of applications. Recently *IJOC* has published articles on traditional topics such as telecommunications (e.g., lightpath routing and design of wireless sensor networks) and evolving areas to include social networks (e.g., influence maximization), UAV [unmanned aerial vehicle] routing, and network interdiction. As the area of networks continues to expand and evolve, we need to encourage non-traditional and/or developing topics without compromising on quality. For me, this often means embracing applications that are interdisciplinary or instances where even well-known techniques are being applied in novel ways. There is no right answer here, and communication with our outstanding editorial team is important for helping us to move forward together as a community. If you have an idea for an article but aren’t sure if it’s a good fit, please contact us!”

All my best,

